



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: Thursday, April 21, 2005

District: 4 - Oakland

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northbound I-680 Carpool (HOV) Lane to Open Monday Morning Lane Open to All Motorists this Weekend

Contra Costa County—Weather permitting, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in cooperation with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) will open the newly constructed northbound I-680 high occupancy vehicle/carpool lane, between the northbound 680 connection with Route 242 in Concord and the Marina Vista Interchange in Martinez, this weekend to all motorists, with 2-person occupancy restrictions beginning Monday morning, April 25, 2005 at 6:00 a.m.

The northbound 680 high occupancy vehicle/carpool lane between the cities of Concord and Martinez includes CHP enforcement pockets located within the 680 center-median of this 4-mile segment. The two or more passenger restrictions will be enforced Monday through Friday between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and 7 p.m. Motorists are advised that carpool violations carry a minimum fine of \$271 dollars.

The contractor has scheduled weeknight lane closures in both directions of I-680 during the next three weeks as needed, for paving and striping operations between Walnut Creek and Martinez, with the first southbound lane closure beginning at 7:00 p.m., and first northbound lane at 8:00 p.m. (Monday through Thursday). The contractor (RGW Construction Inc.) is scheduled to complete the remaining construction activities by mid-June, weather permitting. Caltrans has been working in partnership with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority on this \$46 million dollar project.

The southbound 680 carpool lane between Center Avenue in Concord and the North Main Street Interchange in Walnut Creek will have the northern enforceable limits extended 3-miles in two weeks, to the Marina Vista Interchange. The 7.8-miles of the southbound 680 high occupancy vehicle/carpool lane is scheduled to begin operations and enforcement on Monday morning May 9, 2005, weather permitting.

Motorists are advised that both Maintenance and Construction Zones are “double fine zones” and to use caution when traveling through all work areas.

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